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PSB

9 September 1952

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : Deputy Director/Intelligence

SUBJECT : Social Science Research (Item 3 on PSB Agenda, 11 September)

1. PROBLEM — To present CIA's position as to methods of coordinating Social Science Research.
2. ASSUMPTIONS — It is assumed that, although the agenda for the forthcoming PSB meeting specifies that "no paper" is to be presented, the so-called [REDACTED] Report" (attached as TAB A) will be the basis of the discussion.
3. FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM — The [REDACTED] Report" has been the subject of protracted negotiations between PSB and CIA, culminating in the Director's letter to [REDACTED] dated 6 August 1952 (attached as TAB B). The major issue in these negotiations has been as to whether CIA budgetary figures would be included in the report. At no time have CIA's views as to the substance of the report been formally notified to PSB, although Mr. Becker has made his views known to [REDACTED].
4. DISCUSSION —
  - a. The [REDACTED] Report recommends the delegation to PSB, by NSC Directive, of the responsibility for coordinating, on a government-wide basis, all basic social science research being carried on for governmental purposes, whether inside or outside the government.
  - b. There are three major considerations which make this recommendation unsound:
    - (1) The term "Social Science Research" involves a "grab-bag" concept which suggests an illusory exactness. The report itself recognizes the tentative scope of the concept of "the social sciences" and their relative present immaturity.

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DOCUMENT NO. 21  
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. [ ]  
DECLASSIFIED  
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S  
AUTH: HR 70-2  
DATE: 4-26-80  
REVIEWER: 372044

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- (2) The recommendation, as adopted, would seriously conflict with the Director's statutory duty of coordinating the intelligence activities of the government since, as is obvious (and is apparent from the report), basic social science research constitutes an integral part of the intelligence activities of the government, not only in CIA but also in a number of other agencies.
  - (3) Although the coordination of research activities is a laudable purpose, it would be premature at this time to institute over-all government-wide coordination pending completion of the coordination of various segments of research activities. At this time coordination of economic research is being achieved by the EIC; the Research and Development Board has under way a project for coordinating all research in the Department of Defense relating to psychological warfare; within CIA a survey has been jointly undertaken by DD/P and DD/I respecting the intelligence support requirements of the operational offices; the Department of State is engaged in psychological warfare research in support of the departmental programs and the national intelligence effort, and is continuing to explore its capability to coordinate research in this area.
  - (4) The intelligence agencies continue to be most reluctant to have outside direction of their research activities, which they regard as a necessary part of their individual intelligence activities.
5. CONCLUSIONS — The injection of PSB into this situation at this time is not only beyond the proper function of PSB, but would also set back the progress that is being made. Such progress will be reflected in improved intelligence support for the operational offices of concern to PSB.
6. ACTION RECOMMENDED — That the recommendations of the Report, no matter how presented, be disapproved.

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CONCURRENCE:

LOFTUS E. BECKER  
Deputy Director/Intelligence

Deputy Director (Plans)

RDD:jd  
Approved For Release 2002/01/30 : CIA-RDP79S01057A000500020022-2  
Distribution: 2 - DCI  
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A G E N D A  
Fifteenth Meeting of the  
PSYCHOLOGICAL STRATEGY BOARD  
To Be Held  
September 11, 1952, 2:30 p.m.  
Room 5104, New State Building  
21st St. and Virginia Ave., N.W.

- Item 3. Briefings on Research in the Social Sciences of Use to Psychological Strategy Board Planning and Operations (No paper)

Departmental representatives will brief the Board.

The scheduling of this item in this manner was agreed to at the last luncheon meeting of the PSB on 28 August. Mr. Kirkpatrick will be the State representative, Mr. Price the Defense representative, and the CIA representative is to be designated.

Allocation of time to each individual: not to exceed 10 minutes.

The discussion is to be based on the four following criteria:

- PSB*
- a. Requirements;
  - b. Agency problems with respect to research;
  - c. Interdepartmental coordination;
  - d. Utilization of the research product. *(4/17)*

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Approved

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11 September 1952

ITEM 3

Briefings on Research in the Social Sciences of Use to  
Psychological Strategy Board Planning and Operations  
(No paper)

Summary: Scheduling of this item in this manner was agreed to at the 28 August luncheon meeting of the PSB. Departmental representatives will brief the board: Mr. Kirkpatrick, State; Mr. Price, Defense; and Mr. Becker, CIA. The discussion is to be based on the four following criteria: (a) Requirements; (b) Agency problems with respect to research; (c) Interdepartmental coordination; and (d) Utilization of the research product.

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Reference may be made to the original investigation of the research problem by [REDACTED]. It is the staff's understanding that [REDACTED] was to submit recommendations with a view to: (a) insuring proper coordination of research activities in support of psychological warfare; (b) eliminating duplication; (c) assigning new research requirements; and (d) insuring full use of research by Government departments and agencies. The [REDACTED] investigation departed from a limited study concerned with psychological warfare and extended itself to a consideration of the whole field of social science research, much of which has only an indirect relation to psychological warfare. The staff believes that Government units responsible for planning and conducting psychological warfare in peace or war should determine their research needs and the extent to which these needs are being met. On this basis, the element of central coordination can be introduced.

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Recommendation: That you recommend to the Board that the Agency act as a central point of coordination for research, in much the same manner as intelligence is now centralized. Such coordination would serve to: (a) reduce

- duplication; (b) point up gaps where additional research is required;
- (c) insure full Government-wide utilization of the research product; and
- (d) familiarize agencies engaged in research of the special needs of  
psychological warfare agencies.

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